GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1181
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2016
Books and Uniforms to Economically Weaker Section Students
Singh Shri Hukum

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has appointed any Committee to work out the modalities of providing free study material and uniforms to children from economically backward sections studying in Government aided and unaided private and Government schools in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
(b) whether the Government has any plan to bring all students at par in this regard, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
(c) whether it is also a fact that it is the Government''s duty under the Right to Education Act to provide free books and uniforms to poor children as well as those from the differently abled group, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a): No, Madam. Education is in the Concurrent List and majority of the schools are under the purview of State governments and it is for the States to take appropriate action in the matter of regulating the provision of textbooks and uniforms to the children under their jurisdiction.
(b) & (c): The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, mandates free and compulsory education for all children in Government schools. In pursuance of this Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) supports provision for textbooks to all children in Government/local body and Government aided schools, including Madrasa desirous of introducing State curriculum, within the upper ceiling if Rs. 150/- per child at primary level and Rs. 250/- at upper primary level and two sets of uniform to all girls, SC, ST children and Below Poverty Line (BPL) children, within a ceiling of Rs. 400/- per child per annum.

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